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SOUTHERN Farm Leader

Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

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Negro Youth Shows Way In Important Richmond Meeting

Richmond, Va.—Of tremendous importance to the youth of the South was the first All-Southern Negro Youth Congress held in Richmond on Feb. 13 and 14. There were round-table discussions on unemployment, education and inter-racial cooperation. In discussing the question, "What is youth without a job?", E. E. Strong, National Youth Chairman of the National Negro Congress, pointed out that there were 100,000 young people in the South who have been denied the right of marriage because of unemployment and low wage scales.

To the school teachers from Atlanta, sharecroppers from Alabam and young men and women from the steel mills, Y's and churches, Strong showed the inequalities which exist among the Negro youth and especially among Southern youth — Negro and white.

The conference had for its aims the cementing and organizing of Negro youth in order to secure the educational, political and social opportunities that they are denied. 80,000 Negro youths between the ages of 18 and 30 are on the relief roll, it was stated, and thousands of sharecropper's children grow up under miserable conditions of poverty and hardship.

Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, warned that "the danger to the South does not come from Socialism or Communism, but from those forces who wish to enrich the few at the expense of the many."

Cy W. Record, white student delegate from the University of Texas, led a very popular discussion on inter-racial co-operation which points the way to a new era for the South.

Throughout the discussions, the close connection between the problems of the Negro youth of the South and white and Negro youth throughout the nation was made clear. Organized youth, led by young leaders who want peace and plenty, it was decided, can win jobs, education, civil and political rights and an opportunity for a decent life for the Negro youth of the South and the youth of all the nation.

Union Protests Trial of J. Moore

The trial of Julius S. Moore, Farmers' Union organizer, for libel has been tentatively set for March 3 in in Marksville, La.

Moore was arrested last May on the grounds that he called John Lack, a union-hating merchant of Legonier, La., a "habitual drunkard" and an enemy of the Farmers' Union.

Several white and Negro sharecroppers ordered to substantiate Moore's statements about Lackey. Moore had asked in his letter that Lackey's store be boycotted.

The Farmers' Union of Louisiana believes that this whole trumped-up trial is directed against the Union rather than Moore.

Protests should be sent to Governor Leche and to Judge Bourdelon of Marksville asking that the case be dropped.

There is no code that protects workers like the Union Label.

FLOOD VICTIMS MUST GET RELIEF AT ONCE!

Over a hundred dead by drowning; hundreds more dead and dying of influenza and pneumonia; 900,000 homeless, if not more; 500 million dollars property damage . . . This is the toll of the flood so far.

Unseasonable warm spring rains started it, melting the snow and ice in the North. Thousands of mountain brooks poured down to the Ohio. And there weren't enough roots in the soil to hold this water. They couldn't soak up the steady downpour. Long ago and to this day, greedy lumber companies cut down the trees whose roots could have held back those tons of water. Slowly, inch by inch, the river rises.

Down the Ohio Valley lies Portsmouth, with a million dollar wall built to stop floods. It is eighteen feet too low! No use. Louisville watches the rising water climb up the sides of buildings, covering some of them. Bodies begin to float in the streets.

Further on, Paducah, Kentucky, spreads helpless in the path of the Mississippi. Refugees pour into the city. Sanitation is cut off. Drinking water must be boiled. Inoculation for typhoid is necessary because the fear of an epidemic is everywhere.

DISEASE SPREADS

At Memphis, Tennessee, 1000 influenza cases alone crowd the hospitals. Pneumonia bowls over the weak. A steady stream of refugees jam the relief stations. Poor farmers and workers feel the blow most of all. Like bags of potatoes, they are tagged and registered, and patiently wait for something to eat. In the crowd of suffering human beings, under terrible conditions of housing and sanitation, a few babies are born. And yet only last year, Congress approved the spending of 592 million dollars for flood control! Not a penny was put up to prevent this year's disaster!

DISCRIMINATION APPEARS

Even in the midst of such misery, many reports of discrimination have come in. Negroes have been left without medical care, discriminated against in the matter of relief and housing. In Missouri, Negro sharecroppers watched the life-giving 2 miles of river widen to 22 miles, sweeping their shacks downstream. In their ramshackle huts near North Memphis, Negroes were hardest hit of all but poorly cared for. Death and disease forgot to discriminate between white and Negro, but the relief authorities couldn't. On the levees near Memphis, Negro chain-gang workers risked their lives to save the city, piling up the sandbags that wouldn't hold but no one bothered to take off the chains and shackles that made their work hard and dangerous.

RELIEF NECESSARY NOW!

Something has to be done immediately for the million who have been made homeless. Flood, fire, disease and death call for quick action. The Red Cross and private charity, out of the pockets of the poor, are not enough. Even though the original quota of 2 million dollars has been raised to 10 million, the Red Cross is not enough. Not so long ago, 4 billion was voted to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to help out the banks and big business. Ten

(Continued on Page Two)

Finland Elects Farm President

Helsingfors, Finland. — Premier Kyosti Kallio, candidate of the Agrarian Party, has been elected President of Finland. He defeated the former president, Svinhufvud, who was strongly pro-Nazi and reactionary, and was running for re-election after serving a 6-year term.

After the first inconclusive ballot the Socialists (Laborites) threw their 95 votes out of a total of 300 to Kallio and the Agrarian candidate clinched the election. This victory will probably serve to pull Finland out of the semi-fascist group of European powers and place it among the liberal, people's governments.

SEND THESE BILLS BACK!

With the ink hardly dry on the Tenancy Committee report, Rep. Marvin Jones, Democrat, of Texas is presenting a bill to Congress calling for 50 million dollars a year for ten years to provide loans for tenants. Jones and the House Agriculture Committee have a crazy notion that this bill will solve the tenancy problem!

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, who points out that tenants are increasing by 200,000 a year, says that this bill can do nothing toward solving the tenancy problem.

"It's merely scratching the surface!", says Wallace. SO SAY WE ALL!

The Farmers' Union should throw these fake tenancy bills right back into the teeth of those who want to duck issues, instead of solving them!

Tenancy Report Proves Need For Quick Relief To Farmers

Washington, D. C.—Calling attention to thewell-known fact that 2,000,000 landless farmers are being joined by an additional 40,000 tenants each year, the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy submitted a 73 page report to the President and sounded the call for action on the problem which is a disgrace to the United States.

PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS

In his message on Farm Tenancy to Congress, President Roosevelt promised:

1. Action to open the doors of ownership to tenants who now have the requisite ability and experience but who can become owners only with the assistance of liberal credit on long terms, and technical advice.

2. Modest loans, with the necessary guidance and education to provide small farmers from slipping into tenancy, and to help the masses of tenants, croppers and farm laborers at the very bottom of the agricultural ladder to increase their standards of living, achieve greater security, and begin the upward climb toward land ownership.

3. The retirement by public agencies of land proved to be unsuited for farming, and assistance to families living thereon in finding good homes on good land.

4. Co-operation with State and local agencies to improve the general leasing system.

SEPARATE AGENCY

The Farm Tenancy program, which is to be handled by a separate agency known as the Farm Security Administration, must be kept from degenerating into a mere land-buying program designed to enrich landlords who want to get rid of their poorest land at a good price. While Secretary Wallace would have nothing to say on whether or not large plantations should be broken up, only the widespread leasing of land to tenants by the government on the most liberal terms, with repudiation of farm debts, generous loans for teams, tools and fertilizer will even begin to help the tenant farmers of America to step out of conditions "worse than those of the lowest European peasantry."

FLOODS HITS LA. FARMERS

Brother Editor:—Most of our members live in the Flood Control Spillway. We learned today that they are going to turn the water in the Spillway on us. We all have large families.

The members would like to know if the Farmers' Union, or anyone else, will help in any way. In the line of clothes or in any way they can help.

Secretary,
Palmetto Local No. 17
Farmers' Union of La.

Boothville Citrus Growers Promised Sprayer & Dusters

By GORDON McINTIRE

Recently a group from Local 1 of the Farmers' Union in Boothville and Venice, Plaquemines Parish, succeeded in getting an important promise from the parish police jury. To the group, which included Charles J. Gille, Pres. Local No. 1, Neal Patton, Sec'y and W. Welman, organizer of the Farmers' Union of Louisiana, the police jury promised that a giant sprayer, with a 200 gallon tank attached, and 12 hand dusters would be bought by the Parish for the use of the citrus growers. These tools are expected to be ready for the next orange crop. The sprayer will pump 15 gallons a minute.

It was understood that the farmers must furnish their own spray but they will be able to get credit until the next crop is ready. However, the Parish will hire a man to operate the machine for the growers.

The sprayer and hand dusters will be a great help in producing a more marketable and valuable crop for the citrus growers. Rust mites, scale, aphids and fungus, which have caused considerable damage in the past, will be eliminated through the use of the sprayer.

In keeping with their reputation as a strong local of the Farmers' Union of Louisiana, the Boothville and Venice group also got a promise from the Parish to have a canal built from Boothville school to the Bay. This will be used for fishing and is a decided advantage to the community.

The local has definite plans for further organization and will strive for greater strength. Next year, it intends to put the Union Label on all its produce.

The Boothville local in making its needs known to the local officials has been able to secure benefits for all its members. Is plans for the union label should inspire every farmer in Louisiana to fight for union-label farm produce.

Mexican Troops Protect Farmers

Mexico City. — The Mexican government has decreed that the hacienda Almolonga, a big plantation in the state of Vera Cruz, is to be divided up among the landless farmers.

This plantation is owned by one Manuel Parra, believed responsible for the death of Congressman Manlio Fabio Altimirano last summer. He is leader of the reactionary landlord ring and has been trying to obstruct agrarian reform by bribing public officials and using armed thugs against the peasants.

But the Mexican government is determined that its progressive land policy shall go on unhindered. Threats by armed bullies such as landlord Parra employs will be fought by the government.

The peasants have been promised that Federal troops will be sent in to guarantee their rights and personal security. These troops will see to it that the land is divided up among the working farmers without interference.

THE MONTH ON THE FARM

S. C. U. LOCALS TRANSFERRING TO FARMERS' UNION

Montgomery, Ala.—Share Croppers Union locals in Tallapoosa, Lee, Elmore and Montgomery counties have transferred to the Alabama Farmers' Union and are getting their charters. Bad roads, bad weather, flu epidemics are among the reasons for slow progress now but union members in all S. C. U. counties have written in saying they were preparing for the transfer.

For charter applications the members write to Clyde Johnson P. O. Box 576, Birmingham, Ala. The dues in the Farmers' Union are $1.50 per year for male adults. Women and boys between the ages of 16 and 21 can join free of charge. It takes at least 5 pay-members to get a charter.

All locals of the S. C. U. should get up the money for their charter as quickly as possible and make appointments for organizers to obligate them in the Farmers' Union.

The Share Croppers' Union has three main reasons for uniting with the Farmers' Union. First, Alabama Farmers will be united in one organization where both white and colored farmers will be working on the same program. All poor farmers realize by now that white farmers cannot pull ahead without the Negro farmers and colored farmers can't pull ahead without the white farmers. Second the Farmers' Union is more than 100,000 strong, organized in 38 states. This will give the Black Belt farmers a much greater backing in their struggles against the ruthless oppression and slavery under the landlords. Third, the locals will have official charters which will make official charters which will make it unlawful for anyone to break in union meetings We don't expect all the landlords to recognise our rights or the charters until we bring a few of them to court for violating this right.

The program of the Farmers' Union is similar to that of the Share Croppers Union and the Alabama convention of the Farmers' Union passed a resolution endorsing the main demands of the S. C. U. unanimously.

All locals of the S. C. U. should be transferred in the next month or two. Hard work will make this year a banner year for the Alabama Farmers' Union and we must do our part.

UNION PETITION BRINGS RESULTS IN WINSTON CO.

Double Springs, Ala.—The petition for removal of George M. Delashaw as Winston County Resettlement Supervisor sponsored by Local No. 367 of the Farmers' Union is bringing some results. Julian Brown, the State Director, replied to the first batch of petitions and asked the union to present facts proving the charges of discrimination.

Local No. 367 is now securing affidavits from farmers discriminated against by Delashaw and expect his removal by the state officials after the investigation. This local has handled at least five cases of discrimination, in addition to other facts on the case.

STFU MEETING LOOKS BACK AT YEAR'S WORK

Muskogee, Okla.—The Southern Tenant Farmers Union held its 3rd annual convention at Muskogee last month with 30,000 white, Negro, Indian and Mexican sharecroppers and farm workers represented by 150 delegates. In the hall decorated with slogans reading, "End Peonage in the South" and "The Future Belongs to the Disinherited", the STFU reviewed its victories of the past year. Despite flogging, illegal jailings, raids on union meetings and landlord violence, the STFU held a successful cotton choppers' strike, had Paul Peacher convicted of abetting slavery and helped bring about the appointment of a national and state farm tenancy commissions.

At the opening session, Rev. Claude C. Williams, who with Miss Willie Sue Blagden was flogged at Earle, Ark. last year, stated, "We will not compromise until we have abolished the plantation system from the face of the earth—the system that has brought poverty and starvation in or midst."

The Oklahoma state organization, under the leadership of Odis Sweeden, reported numerous local victories won by the union.

H. L. Mitchell, Executive Secretary of the STFU pointed out that more and more sharecroppers are being forced out of the tenant class and are being reduced to the status of day laborers. He showed that there is no hope for these agricultural workers, farm hands with nothing but their labor to sell, unless they organize into powerful unions for better living.

For the part it has played in helping to destroy peonage in the South, the 56th convention of the A. F. of L. once more endorsed the STFU and recommended that further steps be taken "to bring about a thorough Federal investigation of the conditions of the workers in the cotton areas."

Your merchant has Union-made goods on his shelves. Demand them when patronizing him.

F. U. DELEGATES IN WASHINGTON

Young farmers from Indiana took part in a giant demonstration in Washington on Feb. 19-22 for the passage of the American Youth Act.

Young delegates from the Indiana Farmers' Union told the American Youth Congress which sponsored the pilgrimage that they would bring not only their own food with them, to insure full stomachs, but would take plenty for those "not so fortunate" as they.

This bill provides vocational training and jobs at union wages for unemployed youth of 16 to 25, and paid employment for needy young students.

3,000 delegates presented the President with a million signatures supporting the bill. Their slogan was, "The American Youth Act must be passed!"

FLOOD VICTIMS

(Continued from page 1)

billion dollars went into the New Deal chiefly to safeguard the mortgages and profits of large corporations. The World War used up 50 billion dollars! The flood is a national calamity which only the government can pay for.

WHAT MUST BE DONE

Special funds must be voted for immediate flood relief in sums sufficient to aid the suffering million refugees. Proper medical care under the supervision of the government, and not the Red Cross, should be provided for the sick and disabled. Decent homes must be provided to replace the disease-ridden shacks that were washed away. Small farmers and small business men whose entire holdings were swept from under them must be rehabilitated by the government. Those farmers' and workers' homes which are still standing after the flood recedes should be restored to a condition fit to live in. Discrimination against Negroes in the great task of restoring flood victims to their normal lives must be stopped by government agencies in charge of relief!

ALA. FARMERS SET UP OWN GIN

Parrish, Ala—The Walker County Farmers' Union is building a co-operative gin here so farmers won't have to pay high prices the big ginners set.

All locals of the Walker County union were taxed and the labor movement contributed some to get started.

According to the plans, the union will charge $3 for ginning for the next 5 years, at which time they expect the gin to be paid for completely. Then it is planned the price will drop to $1 a bale and from then on farmers who paid $3 a bale during the first six years will get rebates according to the number of bales they ginned.

Now the important thing is for all Walker County farmers to support the co-operative gin in every way possible. The success of this co-operative movement will start off other counties on the same track. Ginners who have gotten rich charging high prices will have to come down to union terms or go out of business when the union co-operative movement gets a little stronger.

HOMESTEAD BILL AID TO OWNERS

Montgomery, Ala.—The Alabama legislature passed the $2000 homestead exemption bill which will save home-owning farmers about $13 in state taxes each year.

The State Senate, controlled by the by the Black Belt landlords, tried to push the amount of the bill down to $1,200 which would reduce the tax saving to $7 a year. The lower house tried to push through a $3500 homestead exemption. Every county is represented in the lower house and representatives were there to speak for the interests of the small farmer. This bill would have saved the small land owner $22 a year in taxes.

The passage of this bill protecting small land-owning farmers is another step forward on the Farmers' Union program.

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

By WILLIAM BACHMANN

On Feb. 2, 1933, Adolph Hitler, world's leading fascist, said "Give us four years and then judge us." Well, Herr Hitler, THE FOUR YEARS ARE UP and the verdict is "GUILTY!" The world finds you guilty of murder, starvation of women and children, wage cutting, lengthening working hours, feeding your people bullets instead of bread, slaughtering Spanish workers' children with high explosives, race discrimination and persecution of workers and farmers. The general opinion among just men everywhere seems to be that YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED!

* * * * *

$25,000,000 a year increase in wages; union recognition; collective bargaining! A great victory has been won by the United Automobile Workers of America, working with John L. Lewis' C.I.O., over the General Motors outfit, second most powerful corporation in the U.S.A. A 42-day sit-down strike did the trick. Labor has its hats off to the men and women who stuck to their guns. A victory for one is a victory for all!

* * * * *

Despite the fall of Malaga to Italian fascist troops, the peoples' armies of Spain, the loyalist armies, continue to smash out victories on all fronts. Workers from all over the world are fighting for Spanish democracy against fascist terror. American volunteers are already at the front helping to defeat the Franco-Hitler-Mussolini hordes whose special delight seems to be bombing women and children. The Spanish people want real DEMOCRACY and no amount of German-Italian fascist opposition will stop them. Crime and Fascism both must head the same warning, "YOU CAN'T WIN!"

* * * * *

Thousands of Southerners learned long ago that Abraham Lincoln was a true friend of the worker and farmer, white and Negro. In his first annual message to Congress (Dec. 1861), Lincoln said, "LABOR IS PRIOR TO, AND INDEPENDENT OF, CAPITAL. CAPITAL IS ONLY THE FRUIT OF LABOR, AND COULD NEVER HAVE EXISTED IF LABOR HAD NOT FIRST EXISTED. LABOR IS THE SUPERIOR OF CAPITAL AND DESERVES MUCH THE HIGHER CONSIDERATION." It was no fault of Lincoln's that the Emancipation Proclamation did not free the slave but only changed him from a chattel to a land and wage slave. Lincoln died before he could do what he wished for the laboring man. Today he would probably tell white and Negro farmers to organize so that they can really be free! We can help carry out Lincoln's great tradition by helping to build a real people's party—A FARMER - LABOR PARTY! To honor the memory of the Emancipator, be one yourself!

* * * * *

Those who wonder why the United States Supreme Court is due for a general overhauling will find the answer in the words of Hon. James Clark McReynolds, as quoted in THE NINE OLD MEN, by Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen. Said this so-called "Justice" McReynolds, "There is only one movement in this country which I consider dangerous to it and which must be destroyed at all hazards. That is the labor movement." Dangerous to whom? That is what we'd like to know. Most of us have known for a long time that the kind of justice handed out by the Supreme Court has been in favor of the bankers, industrialists and big landlords. There'll never be Supreme Court justice for the farmers and workers until we have a Farmer-Labor government that will see to it that labor-haters like Justice McReynolds are kept off every bench but a park bench!

* * * * *

The LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee, which is investigating the use of gunmen, spies and thugs against striking workers, has uncovered information which shows that these labor spies even tapped the wires of Assistant Secretary of Labor McGrady. During the General Motors strike in Toledo in 1935, the Pinkerton Agency, suppliers of hoodlums and strikebreakers to the big companies, spied on the government's attempts to bring about a peaceful settlement. If you want to find out who advocates and uses violence during strikes, just investigate the records of a few high-class strike-breaking agencies!

Southern Farm Students Praise College For Workers

By REUBEN COLE
Georgia Student at Commonwealth College

I have been a reader of the SOUTHERN FARM LEADER for lished from readers in different parts some time and have been especially interested in the letter you have pub- of the South. I do not recall having seen anything from Georgia where I was born and raised, and I hope you can find space for this letter.

Conditions in Georgia are as bad, and in some respects are worse than in other states. Something that occurred near where I worked last year will give you an idea of how things are in Georgia. A Negro sharecropper had managed to save up $60 by working at sawmills when he was not busy in the fields. His landlord heard of this and set about to get the money. While the man and his family were away, the landlord concealed a sack of potatoes in the man's house and then he started to search everybody's house, telling them that some of his potatoes had been stolen. Naturally he found the potatoes where he had put them and when the man returned home the landlord "arrested" him and started to jail with him. After they had gone a couple of miles, the landlord started telling him how sorry he was about carrying him to jail and that if $40 could be raised he would drop the whole matter. It was either hand over his money or go to the chain gang, so the man passed over his hard-earned $60.

Things of this sort are not at all unusual; their rule is to get every dollar they possibly can get out of the men who grow the cotton, corn and tobacco, and they will resort to murder if it takes that to get the money. Very, very few tenants and croppers received their part of the AAA payments. What protest they have made has been crushed because they have not had any program under which to work together.

It was with these things in mind that I came to Commonwealth College last fall. Commonwealth believes that the Southern workers can better their condition through organization and its only purpose is to assist students from different sections of the country in getting a true picture of conditions and how to go about the job of organizing the workers. Many former Commonwealth students are now active in farmer's organizations and that is not to the taste of the landlords. About the first thing I learned after I got to Commonwealth was that the planters of eastern Arkansas were making a drive to close the College. Lies of every description were being circulated about it. As the Unions grow, the landlords try the harder to close the College.

I hope that all of the readers of the Leader who are interested in seeing the Unions grow stronger will write to the College for more information.

Standing, left to right, Arthur Skreberg, instructor in Farm Problems; Fred Rehmer, Colorado; Ruben Cole, Georgia; Raymond Craft, Texas; Samuel Epstein, Pennsylvania. Seated, up and down the stairs, Belle Celber, N. Y.; Arcus Reddoch, Arizona; Johnnie Thompson, Texas; Hillquit Lynch, Arkansas; James Fulks, Arkansas; Cullen Ott, Louisiana. Seated on ground in front, Floyd Martin, Arkansas.

Our Readers Write

UNION CAN GET HIGHER WAGES

Brother Editor: — Men work here for 50c a day. Their meals cost 45c a day counting 15c a meal. They only clear 5c a day for the whole day's work. They have to pay $2.00 a month for house rent.

If they would work for a dollar a day, they would clear 55c and even when you take out house rent they would clear $12.50 a month. If men folks got $1 a day and board and women got 75c, the men would clear $6 a week and the women $4.50. Then even if they paid $2 a month rent, they could get themselves some clothes, medicines and could pay for doctors.

Moundville landlords only pay us 30c for their washing. I declare that these are no wages for a human being to work for.

At the rate they pay us it is slow starvation which causes some people to take sick and die. They can't get the proper food, clothes, medicines or doctors because they can't pay for it. They can't even pay for their funeral unless they belong to a society and they can't join at these wages. These people should be organized!

Unorganized farmers are robbing day labor. Farmers should organize so they can get better prices for their products. Then they could pay better wages for day labor. They would not be cutting each others throats. They would all be demanding a better living.

Day hands could get better wages then. All of us could come into a beter life then.

Join the Farmers' Union in your home local and back your state and national officers who propose to take the cover off this situation and show you what lies under the lid of the box. Are you in the Farmers' Union? If not, why not?

A Farmers' Union Member
Moundville, La.

FEELS HE'S OUT OF JAIL

Brother Editor:—We have left C— and glad to get away. He is the worst man we have ever lived with. He would not settle with me. He still owes me for cotton and work I done over a year ago.

I don't want none of the sharecroppers to have nothing to do with C—M— for he is a rascal. Ch— advised me not to go to his house for a settlement on account of his wife. C— said he would settle with me and would not do it.

We moved. We left C—. He is a mighty bad man. He owes for some cotton and more besides. There is not a bigger rascal than he is. All he is fit for is to beat his croppers out of what they make and hunt on Sundays. We all feel like we are out of jail since we moved.

A White Sharecropper
Dadesville, Alabama.

BUS WON'T STOP FOR KIDS

Brother Editor:—Mr. Duke Scott drives the school bus that comes through here. He will not come through here when it is muddy and rainy. He turns at the Highway and at O. S. Blake's. There are 14 kids that have to meet him at the highway or at Mr. Blake's or not go at all. Mr. Scott said that he was not coming through till the roads got dry and dusty. He said if we meet him at the highway we must be there at 6 o'clock.

When the welfare woman came out here to get us to go to school she said that she would not furnish anything except books and when we began she would put them in the school for us. We started the 23rd day of November and she has not put any books there for me and J—.

A Sharecropper's Child
Jackson's Gap, Ala.

LA. STUDENT AT LABOR COLLEGE

I believe it would be of great interest to every working man in this country to know that the small farmers and tenants of North Central Louisiana are not exempt from the great crisis the United States is in.

The drought of the summer of 1936 affected the farmers of North Central Louisiana tremendously. The corn crop was cut to a point which was unbearable to the farmers. Cotton was also affected. The potato crop was cut down to 30 bushels an acre.

In fact the conditions under which us farmers are living are mere existence, and in lots of homes there the families are eating just cornbread and syrup, a diet which everyone knows is not sufficient to keep the human body and mind in a healthy, functioning condition.

I am a member of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union and through this union I learned of a school where I could go, for a very low price, and obtain more education to help me better my condition and help others do the same, than anywhere else in the United States.

I have been at Commonwealth College, located near Mena, Arkansas for six months and am leaving here with an understanding of the way in which I can get better living conditions for myself and others. Anyone who is interested in this College, should write to the Executive Secretary, Miss Charlotte Moskowitz, Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas.

C. O.
A Union Member
Bellwood, La.

LET'S KEEP HIM IN OFFICE

Underhanded attempts are being made by a disgruntled group in the Farmers' Union to have J. M. Graves, national secretary of the F.U. removed from his office. E. E. Kennedy, reactionary former national secretary, is the guiding hand behind the scenes. When Mr. Graves was elected at the last convention to take Kennedy's place, Kennedy moved that the vote for Graves be made unanimous. J. M. Graves, a progressive member of the Farmers' Union, helped John A. Simpson build the Oklahoma Farmers' Union and has always shown himself to be a real leader.

Kennedy, a reactionary with fascist tendencies, and Ira Wilmoth of the Michigan Farmers' Union have even committed the serious offense of using the *National Union Farmer* equipment to circulate a petition asking for the recall of Graves.

J. M. GRAVES

The Michigan board of directors has shown its disapproval of Wilmoth's actions by appointing Chester Graham editor of their paper. Graham is a bitter opponent of Kennedy and his reactionary group whose only object seems to be to hold the Farmers' Union back and keep it from being the real fighting organization it is.

J. M. Graves was unanimously elected to the office of national secretary because he is the best man for the job. Members of the Farmers' Union everywhere should see that he stays there to lead the way to greater struggles.

FARM WAGE WORKERS
SUBSCRIBE TO—
THE RURAL WORKER
Box 176, Sta. D, New York City
25c a Year

TROUBLE WITH CHECKS

Brother Editor:—We are in the Spillway. Some of us are on Resettlement and some can't get on. Some of our members have been moved to much poorer farms. Resettlement has taken some teams away and they haven't got anything to work with.

Some had checks signed for 1936 and they haven't got any money yet. We have not got our rights regarding AAA checks. We didn't get any AAA checks at all.

The landlords are bitterly against the union in this section. They would drive the members off the farms. We would like badly to have justice here in the parish of Pointe Coupee. Resettlement and county agents are carrying on the same crooked work against us. Some had to take teams for their settlement in full. They would not give them their money after selling their cotton and some of them haven't got their money yet for their cotton. Some had to move because they asked for their money.

That's the way we are treated. We haven't got any protection and we didn't get any AAA checks at all for 34 and 35. Please assist us at once. This is the way we are treated. Some were put out because they would not work on halves.

Secretary,
Local 9, Batchelor, La.

STRONG UNIONS CAN STOP THIS

Brother Editor:—If you can please help me I wish you would do so.

I am homeless and have nowhere to stay. I have a wife and five children to care for and I have nothing to do at present.

I have been farming all of my days and now I can't get anywhere to stay and I wish you could find me a home somewhere.

A Sharecropper
Opelousas, La.

GRAND MEETING UNDER CHARTER

Brother Editor:—Our first meeting was held with fourteen members present and two visitors and two visitors. Nine members were unavoidably absent.

The meeting was grand with joy and happiness under the new charter. Our next meeting will be Wednesday night and every Wednesday night every week.

Farmers' Union Local,
St. Landry Parish, La.

LANDLORD KEEPS CHECKS

Brother Editor:—I am letting you know just how the landlords did some of us here in getting our government checks. The landlords of Tallapoosa County are still trying to take the poor farmer's checks. Mr. B. S—— has just about taken them all from his hands on his place and in selling the cotton the hands did not get nothing out of it which the government was to give.

I do think the farmers need their checks because we are without shoes and clothes for our children to go to school and no way to get them. We are paying them high rents to stay on the land.

Every year the landlord tells us that we did not come out this time but maybe we will the next time. We go half hungry and no Sunday clothes to go out in. Then he still tells us that we owe him. Now we have to live ourselves and if we don't unite together we are always going to be in this bad shape. One farmer had paid his landlord all he owed him and then when these government checks began to come in, he just took them and would not give them to us. Now you see just how they do us.

We don't have money to get anything for our family. Our children need shoes, clothing and food as well. Here we are sitting without food or nothing for the boss took it all away from us and we have to suffer it out the best we can.

All the houses on this place need fixing and when it rains, it rains in all of them like outdoors. Mr. S— won't put up any money to have the houses fixed. All he cares about is to get his land worked and get the money.

I do hope there will be a change this year. If it doesn't why I don't see how we can go on another year like we did this one.

A Negro Sharecropper,
Tallapoosa County, Ala.

HOUSE NOT FIT TO LIVE IN

Brother Editor:—I owed Mr. L— some house rent and before he came after his money he had my things attached. The house had no top on it and the doors were nearly down.

The water was not fit to drink and he made me pay $30 for it. He would not let me have any pine wood but only some stuff that would not burn in 6 months. It was all knots and couldn't be split.

None of the barns on the place were any good at all. To make matters worse, none of the crop that was made on the place was gathered off but Mr. L— did not notify me anyhow until all the papers were filed.

A Sharecropper
Alexander City, Ala.

10 BOSSES FOR 48 MEN ON WPA

Brother Editor:—I am a part time worker whenever I can get something to do. I passed by a place where the W.P.A. workers were at work and counted 48 Negroes working and to that squad of Negroes there were 10 boss men and this is in Montgomery, Alabama.

This is why the money that is supposed to be for this service don't amount to more than it does. They pay out all the money to the boss men.

A Citizen
Montgomery, Ala.

GREED OF PRIVILEGED FEW DOOMS CAPITALISM

By McKINLEY GILBERT

(Continued from the last issue)

$4000 PER FAMILY POSSIBLE

We have seen how in the prosperous year 1929, a possible output of 135 billion was depressed to an actual output of 93 billions. Had these 93 billions been fairly equally distributed, this would have given the average American family an income of $3,184. However, they were not so distributed. Too much of the national income went to those persons who can no longer spend nor reinvest their income. Only some 53 billion were distributed among the 35 millions of wage and salary workers, who constitute more than four-fifths of the total population if we assume 4 in a family. Hence the average family income of these, the bulk of the people was not $3,184 but $1,474. Furthermore, according to all authories on income, $2500 would have been required to give them what we fondly call an American standard of living.

ONLY RECEIVED $1,475

What they would have received had the National income been equally distributed is $3,184. What they MIGHT HAVE RECEIVED had industry operated at its full capacity with equal distribution of the output would have been $4,370! Sufficient to put a chicken in every pot, two cars in every garage and abolish poverty permanently. For good measure, this would have wiped out 90% of the crime, prostitution, political corruption and heart-breaks that are making a combination Bedlam, Swine's Sty and Potters Field of the richest country on earth and are making panhandlers of its people.

CHOICES THAT LIE BEFORE US

However, the national income of 1929 was not paid out in the dollars equivalent to the consumers goods and services produced. Too much of it, as already stated, went into the hands of a small part of America's population where it is now clogging the bowels of trade in the capacity of frozen purchasing power, as the 22 billion dollars of bank deposits, coupled with the diminishing bank credit, amply testify.

Could the recipient of these huge accumulations reinvest them in new money-making enterprises involving capital goods, a temporary recovery might be possible. But why erect more bakeries when there is now more bread than people can buy?

The point I wish to drive home is this. FIRST, the business depression which Hoover and Co., sought to cure by incantation and wishful hoping, and the NEW DEAL is seeking to cure with doses of blood transfusions made with borrowed blood, is a greater catastrophe than the World War.

SECOND, that this appalling catastrophe is not due to so-called acts of God or the mysterious operation of an inscrutable business cycle, but to the indisputed fact that capitalism or the profit system is incapable of distributing the consuming power and services it is capable of supplying.

THIRD, that all the well-meant efforts made to balance production and consumption within the framework of an economic order whose only concern is to pocket the largest profit, are as futile as King Canute's attempt to sweep back the ocean.

FOURTH, that the only manner in which the American people may secure the kind of life to which their wealth of natural resources, skill, brains, and mechanical equipment entitles them, is a set-up in which all goods and services are sold at cost, thereby balancing national output with national income.

FIFTH, the American's economic life, organized and combined for the sole purpose of supplying its people with the goods and services it is capable of producing, when worked to 1929 potential capacity, would give the average American family an annual income of $4,370 and thereby establish a standard of living such as the world has never witnessed before.

SIXTH, that by leisurely improvement in the means of production this average family income of $4,370 per annum can be raised to 8 or 10 thousand dollars within a decade or two.

SEVENTH, that failing to organize the productive capacity of the nation on the rational principle of industry of the people, by the people, and for the people who do the useful work will bring us face to face with two alternatives. SLOW DEATH as exemplified by the present course, loss of its glorious heritage through Fascism and War or; PEACE, SECURITY, AND THE ABUNDANT LIFE FOR ALL.

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